

Abstract of the InventionLINKAGE MECHANISM PROVIDING A VIRTUAL PIVOT AXIS FOR  
HAIR REMOVAL APPARATUS WITH PIVOTAL HEAD

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A linkage mechanism for a hair removal appliance having a head (1) carrying at least one hair removal member mounted for a large extent of rocking about a virtual axis while being packaged within a slender handle envelope. The virtual pivot axis remains nearly static during pivoting. The linkage mechanism is attached to a housing body (2) and has five links, which include a pair of spaced support arms (4,5) pivoted to the head (1) at first and second pivot axes (11,12), the first and second pivot axes being spaced apart by a first distance; a first transverse link member (6) pivoted on the body (2) for rotation about a third axis (17) and being pivoted on each of the support arms (4,5), at fourth and fifth pivot axes (15,16) spaced apart by a second distance less than the first distance; and second and third transverse link members (7,9) pivoted on the body (2) at respective first ends thereof and being pivoted on respective second ends thereof to respective ones of the support arms (4,5) at sixth and seventh pivot axes (13,14) spaced apart by a third distance, said first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh axes being mutually parallel.

The hair removal (or "depilation") head carries one or more shaving units. The depilation head can alternatively, or in addition, be configured as an epilation appliance for plucking hair.